

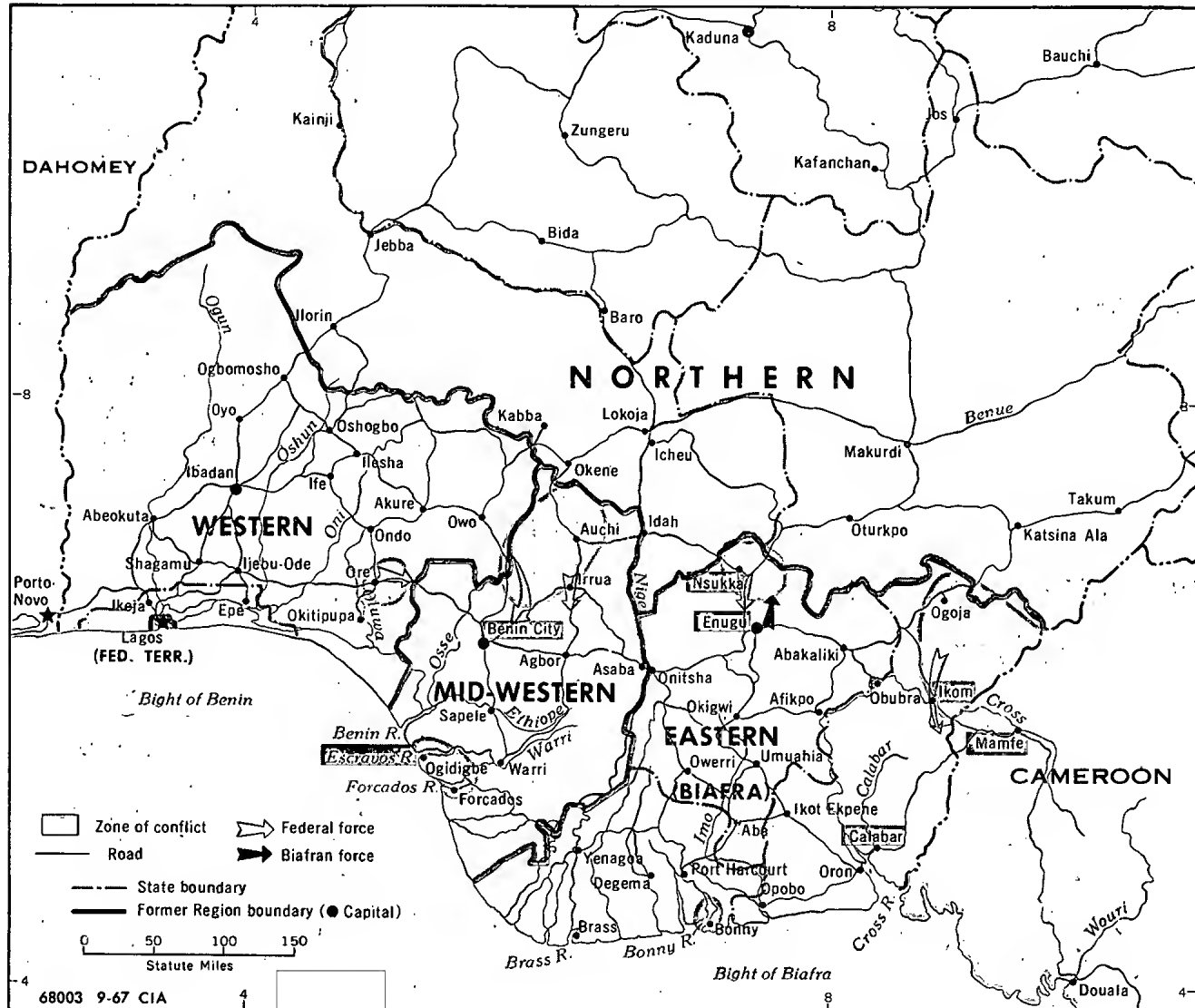


The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 19 September 1967



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SOUTHERN NIGERIA

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DAILY BRIEF
19 SEPTEMBER 1967

1. South Vietnam

Rumors of impending Buddhist disturbances in the north appear exaggerated, but the militants continue stirring beneath the political surface. There is little doubt Tri Quang remains dedicated to overthrowing any government he cannot control. Tri Quang's power, however, no longer matches his ambitions and the militants will probably concentrate on trying to pressure the new legislature on religious issues.

2. South Vietnam

The week ending 5 September saw Saigon food prices jump 5.5 percent, raising the retail price index for all items 4 percent. Food prices now are almost 50 percent higher than on 3 January, while nonfood prices are only about 10 percent higher.

3. Syria

There has been a Syrian troop build-up along the cease-fire line during the last week. We believe the regime intends this as a demonstration of its militancy, in contrast to the current "moderation" of the other Arabs. Should the presence of this force provoke trouble, the Israelis could easily demolish the Syrians from the air and would probably not hesitate to do so.

4. Nigeria

Federal forces are pressing the Biafrans harder and harder. A column moving in from the northwest may be only 25 miles from the Biafran capital of Enugu, federal troops have captured a key town near the Cameroon border in the far east, and the Biafran position in the mid-Western state continues to worsen. Even so, we do not think Lagos has the follow-through for a knockout punch right now.

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5. United Nations

The General Assembly that convenes today will inherit the Middle East crisis from the special session, and will probably do no better with it. There has been little change in the members' positions since last summer. The Soviets, probably still gun-shy from the special session, are unlikely to take the initiative; in fact, they may be backing away from the agreement reached with the US in the closing days last July. Tito's proposal looks like a nonstarter.

Prospects are brighter for the draft nonproliferation treaty, particularly since the Soviet compromise proposal on the safeguards issue meets many of the demands of the Common Market countries.

6. Communist China

Last week Chou En-lai, faced with Sihanouk's "decision" to withdraw his diplomatic mission from Peking, moved fast to smooth the Prince's ruffled feathers.

Even so, relations are not likely to improve much any time soon. Yesterday Sihanouk again publicly vowed to stamp out subversive Chinese propaganda in Cambodia.

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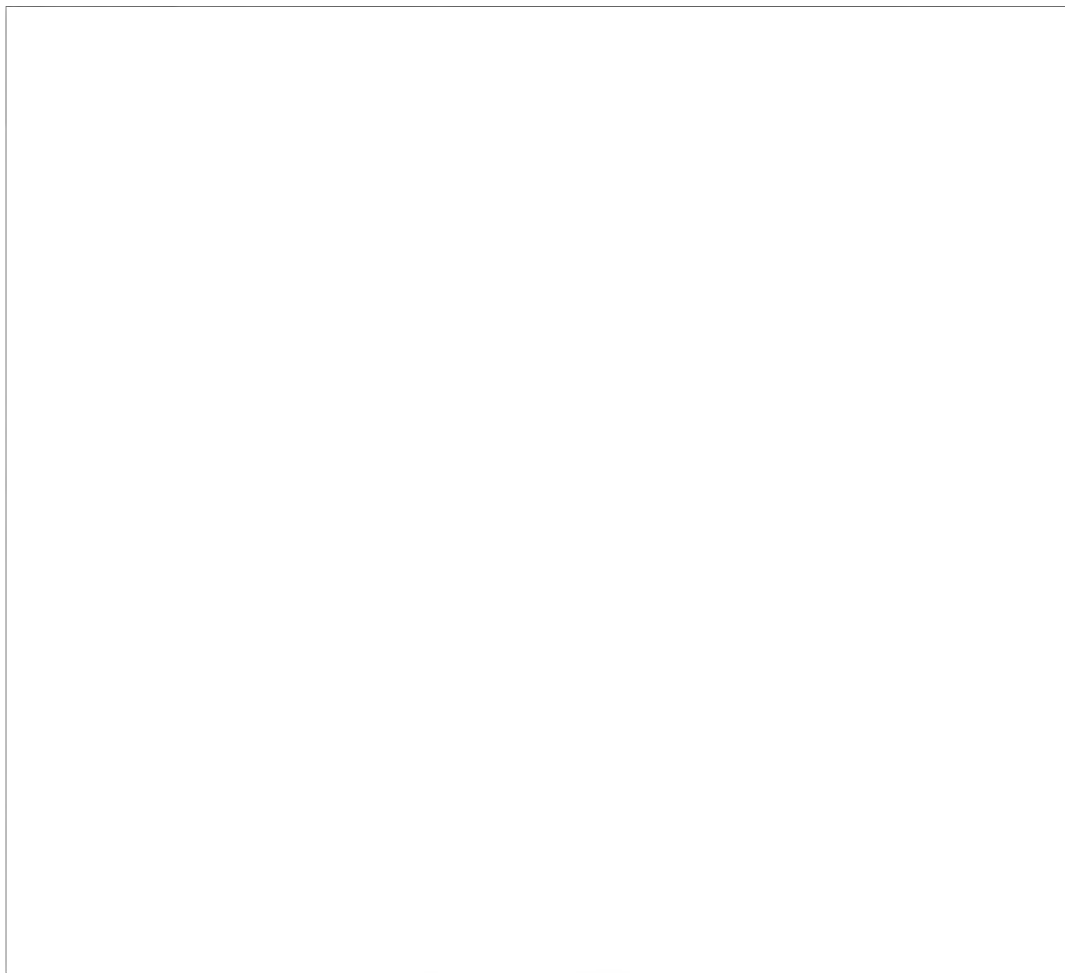
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**SPECIAL DAILY REPORT ON NORTH VIETNAM
FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY**

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Hanoi Tightens Up On Food:

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The regime is exhorting people to observe strict rationing and they are warned against hoarding. The latest campaign is directed at "non-combatants" and seems intended to make sure that those who have a more active defense role get enough to eat.

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While there are shortages of various commodities, particularly rice, substitutions have been made and the food situation in North Vietnam does not seem to be assuming crisis proportions.

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